Statement

Pending Development Projects in NER

Sl. No.	Particulars	Number of Projects pending for		
		more than 3 years	more than 1 year but less than 3 years	less than 1 year
1.	NLCPR Projects	20	91	60
2.	NEC Projects	1	23	0
	TOTAL:	21	114	60

Process of visas for Pakistan

3859. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is easing the process of visa for Pakistan; and

(b) the number of visas that were issued in 2006 and 2005?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In October 2005, Government had proposed that the existing visa agreement between the two countries be liberalised and also handed over the draft of a new agreement. Response from the Government of Pakistan to this has recently been received.

(b) The High Commission of India in Islamabad issued 90663 visas in 2005 and 92334 visas in 2006 to Pakistani nationals intending to visit India.

Indian PoWs in Pakistani jails

3860. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Indian Prisoners of War are languishing in Pakistani jails since the 1971 war and the prisoners' families blame Government for their unending misery;